

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT SEYMOUR M. HERSH BYLINER HEADLINED COLSON ASSERTS KISSINGER WANTED ELLSBERG STOPPED, NEW YORK TIMES, APRIL 30, 1974.

2. A FORMER PRESIDENTIAL COUNSEL, CHARLES W. COLSON, IN THE FIRST PUBLIC ACCOUNT OF HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE WHITE HOUSE "PLUMBERS" GROUP, DECLARED TODAY THAT HENRY A. KISSINGER HAD PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE INITIAL HIGH-LEVEL CONCERN OVER DR. DANIEL ELLSBERG.

3. DR. ELLSBERG HAS SAID HE WAS THE SOURCE OF THE DISCLOSURE TO THE PRESS OF THE CLASSIFIED PENTAGON PAPERS IN JUNE 1971.

4. "DR. KISSINGER WAS EVEN MORE ALARMED OVER THE LEAKS THAN UNCLASSIFIED

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THE PRESIDENT", MR. COLSON SAID IN AN AFFIDAVIT MADE PUBLIC

BY A FEDERAL JUDGE TODAY. "HE BELIEVED THAT THE LEAKS MUST BE STOPPED AT ALL COSTS, THAT ELLSBERG MUST BE STOPPED FROM MAKING FURTHER DISCLOSURES OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, AND THAT THOSE ACTING IN CONCERT WITH HIM MUST BE STOPPED."

5. 'ELLSBERG'S PRIVATE HABITS'. MR. KISSINGER, THE SECRETARY OF STATE WHO WAS THEN SERVING AS PRESIDENT NIXON'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, HAS REPEATEDLY DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE PLUMBERS OPERATIONS, WHICH WERE DIRECTED IN PART BY DAVID R. YOUNG, JR., ONE OF HIS FORMER ASSISTANTS ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE "PLUMBERS" WERE A WHITE HOUSE TEAM CREATED TO TRACE AND HALT THE LEAKS.

6. MR. COLSON, IN HIS AFFIDAVIT, TOLD OF A HIGH-LEVEL WHITE HOUSE MEETING SHORTLY AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE PENTAGON PAPERS IN WHICH HE SAID "DR. KISSINGER ALSO REPORTED ON ELLSBERG'S PRIVATE HABITS AND CERTAIN OF HIS ACTIVITIES IN VIETNAM."

7. "I HAD THE CLEAR IMPRESSION," MR. COLSON ADDED, "THAT DR. KISSINGER WAS REACTING TO CONVERSATION HE HAD HAD AT VARIOUS TIMES WITH THE PRESIDENT: BASICALLY HIS CONCERN WAS VERY SIMILAR TO THE PRESIDENT'S: THAT ELLSBERG'S ACTIVITIES OR THE ACTIVITIES OF THOSE ACTING WITH HIM COULD UNDERMINE THE MOST CRITICAL AND SENSITIVE FOREIGN POLICY NEGOTIATIONS."

8. DR. ELLSBERG JOINED THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT IN 1964 TO WORK ON DECISION-MAKING RELATED TO VIETNAM, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY TURNED AGAINST THE WAR.

9. MR. COLSON'S AFFIDAVIT WAS SUBMITTED TO THE COURT IN CAMERA; THAT IS, NOT INTENDED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE ACCORDING TO ONE OF MR. COLSON'S ATTORNEYS. THE NINE-PAGE STATEMENT WAS RELEASED WITHOUT COMMENT LATE TODAY.

10. IN IT, MR. COLSON QUOTES MR. NIXON AS REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZING "THE TREMENDOUS GRAVITY OF THE LEAKS AND HIS CONCERN THAT ELLSBERG AND/OR ELLSBERG'S ASSOCIATES MIGHT CON-

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TINUE THE PATTERN."

11. MR. NIXON IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE PLUMBERS, HAS ACKNOWLEDGED AUTHORIZING THE QUASI-LEGAL INVESTIGATIVE FORCE, BUT HAS REPEATEDLY DENIED GIVING ANY EXPRESS AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ELLSBERG BURGLARY.

12. THE WATERGATE SPECIAL PROSECUTION FORCE HAD BEEN

ORDERED TO TURN OVER TODAY, UNDER SEAL, ANY EVIDENCE IT HAD ON MR. NIXON'S DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN THE BURGLARY. A NUMBER OF HIGHLY RELIABLE SOURCES SAID THAT THE PROSECUTORS DID NOT DEVELOP ANY EVIDENCE LINKING THE PRESIDENT DIRECTLY TO THE BREAK-IN.

13. MR. COLSON TOLD OF ONE MEETING IN LATE JUNE, 1971, IN WHICH HE SAID MR. NIXON HAD TOLD HIM AND H. R. HALDERMAN, THEN THE WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF, IN EFFECT THAT:

14. "I DON'T GIVE A DAMN HOW IT IS DONE, DO WHATEVER HAS TO BE DONE TO STOP THESE LEAKS AND PREVENT FURTHER UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES; I DON'T WANT TO BE TOLD WHY IT CAN'T BE DONE."

15. "THIS GOVERNMENT CANNOT SURVIVE, IT CANNOT FUNCTION IF ANYONE CAN RUN OUT AND LEAK WHATEVER DOCUMENTS HE WANTS TO," MR. COLSON QUOTED THE PRESIDENT AS SAYING. HE SAID THE PRESIDENT HAD DEMANDED TO LEARN "HOW AND WHY THE 'COUNTER-GOVERNMENT' IS AT WORK. I DON'T WANT EXCUSES. I WANT RESULTS. I WANT IT DONE, WHATEVER THE COSTS."

16. MR. COLSON QUOTED ANOTHER PRESIDENTIAL AIDE AS TELLING HIM THAT MR. NIXON HAD RECEIVED APPROVAL FROM J. EDGAR HOOVER, THE LATE HEAD OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, BEFORE SETTING UP THE PLUMBERS. THAT UNIT BECAME OPERATIONAL IN MID-JULY, 1971, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MR. YOUNG AND EGIL KROGH, JR., ANOTHER WHITE HOUSE AIDE.

17. MANY DETAILS OF MR. NIXON'S CONCERN ABOUT LEAKS HAD BECOME KNOWN DURING THE TRIAL OF MR. KROGH, WHO
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WAS SENTENCED JAN. 24 TO SIX-MONTHS IN JAIL FOR HIS ROLE IN THE ELLSBERG BURGLARY. BUT THE STATEMENTS ABOUT MR. KISSINGER WERE THE FIRST COMMENTS ON THE RECORD LINKING HIM TO ANY ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN THE WHITE HOUSE CONCERN ABOUT DR. ELLSBERG.

18. DECLINED TO COMMENT. MR. KISSINGER REFUSED TO COMMENT LAST DECEMBER WHEN THE NEW YORK TIMES QUOTED FORMER PRESIDENTIAL AIDES AS SAYING THAT HE PLAYED AN OVERT ROLE IN THE WHITE HOUSE DECISION TO SET UP THE PLUMBERS.

19. MR. COLSON PLACED MR. KISSINGER AT WHAT HE SAID WAS ONE OF THREE HIGH-LEVEL PRESIDENTIAL MEETINGS IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT AUTHORIZED THE PLUMBERS UNIT. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE, HE SAID, ON JULY 15 "ON A HELICOPTER

RETURNING FROM LOS ANGELES TO SAN CLEMENTE FOLLOWING
THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF DR. KISSINGER'S TRIP TO
CHINA."

20. THE PENTAGON PAPERS WERE A HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM
WAR AND UNITED STATES INVOLVEMENT.

21. MR. COLSON AND FIVE OTHERS--INCLUDING JOHN D.
EHRlichMAN, MR.NIXON'S FORMER DOMESTIC ADVISER--WERE IN-
DICTED MARCH 7. A FEDERAL GRAND JURY ACCUSED THEM OF
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF DR. LEWIS
FIELDING OF BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF., DR. ELLSBERG'S FORMER
PSYCHIATRIST, BY AUTHORIZING A BREAK-IN AT DR. FIELDING'S
OFFICE ON SEPT. 3, 1971.

22. JUDGE GERHARD A. GESELL OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT
COURT HERE, HAS SET JUNE 17 AS THE TENTATIVE DATE FOR
THEIR TRIAL.

23. ONE OF THE MAIN PARTS OF THE DEFENDANTS' DEFENSE HAS
BEEN THEIR CONTENTION--NOT YET RULED ON BY JUDGE GESELL--
THAT THEY WERE MOTIVATED BY LEGITIMATE CONCERNS OF NATION-
AL SECURITY IN THE BREAK-IN.

24. MR. COLSON URGED IN THE AFFIDAVIT THAT HE AND HIS
ATTORNEYS BE GRANTED ACCESS TO MANY HIGHLY CLASSIFIED
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GOVERNMENT RECORDS TO PREPARE FOR HIS CASE.

25. HE REQUESTED A NUMBER OF FEDERAL INVESTIGATORY
REPORTS "CONCERNING THE SUSPICION
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